

RADIO STAMPS
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Hello again to radio listeners and stamp collectors around the world.

Radio Listening on Stamps

Listening to radio is one of the many radio subjects you can collect on stamps. Earlier this year in April, on program 9, I had 3 examples you can look for from Hungary, St. Helena and Laos. At that time there were at least 46 stamps, from 34 different countries around the globe, that featured radio listeners. That total should now be increased by 4 more stamps and 1 additional country. This is program 15 and the subject today is the Australian issue, on June 13, of an impressive set of 4 stamps about radio listening in the "golden days of radio".

Radio Days

I first mentioned this distinctive stamp issue in May, on program 11. At that time I only had a few details to pass on to you. Since then I've received a first day cover and a stamp pack from Bill Farmer of Edgewater, Western Australia. Thank you Bill for your help. I was surprised by my family with a gift of these stamps for my birthday too. For the collector there is a set of 4 stamps, a stamp pack, a first day cover, a set of 4 maximum cards, and a unique hard cover book with an accompanying audio cassette of early Australian radio programs. This is certainly the most impressive issue I've ever seen for a collection of radio stamps. My congratulations to Australia Post.

As an introduction to this colourful set of 4 stamps, here's the brief description that's included with the first day cover.

"Australia Post remembers the heyday of Australian radio. During the 1940s and 1950s radio soap operas, serials, talent quests, quizzes and children sessions were main sources of popular home entertainment. In the days before television the imagination was very important in 'picturing' the personalities, characters and situations issuing from the radio set."

Four Australian radio programs of the 1940s and 1950s are creatively illustrated on these stamps: a variety show, a radio drama, a quiz show and an adventure serial. The set has 2 stamps

with a denomination of \$0.43, 1 \$0.85 stamp, and 1 with a denomination of \$1.00. The design of the stamps features a radio and radio listeners in silhouette, as the foreground. Illustrated in the background, in full colour, are the radio programs.

The \$0.43 stamp with the blue border shows 2 radio listeners: a woman seated and a man standing, leaning on a floor model receiver and tuning in a station. In the background are 4 singers at a microphone representing a talent or variety program. The other \$0.43 stamp, with an aquamarine border, shows the silhouette of a woman standing at an ironing board, with an iron in hand, listening to a table radio. In the background a scene from a radio drama is illustrated.

The \$0.85 stamp has a light tan border. It shows a seated couple in silhouette listening to a table receiver. The background illustration shows the happy faces of 4 quizz show contestants. The \$1.00 issue, with a light purple border, shows 2 school children on the floor listening to a floor model radio. An adventure serial is illustrated in the background.

This set of stamps is available as 4 singles or, if you prefer, 4 blocks of 4 stamps each. The stamp pack, containing 4 singles, is very nicely done. An 8 piece band is illustrated in silhouette on the cover of this folded card, against a colourful background that lists the popular shows during the golden days of Australian radio. On the inside, a set of 4 single stamps is contained in a protective covering. The first day cover for this issue is equally attractive with the colourful stamps, a special microphone cancellation and the unique cover design. The cachet on the left side is a silhouette of a radio announcer at a microphone, with the words below "Golden Days of Radio". Reproduced in the background, over the whole light mauve cover, is a radio dial complete with the call signs of radio stations.

Although my family has ordered it for me, I haven't yet received the 32 page "Golden Days of Radio" hard cover book which commemorates the best years of Australian radio. It is accompanied by a 30 minute audio cassette, featuring excerpts from early programs of the 40s and 50s. The unique presentation case is in the form of a 1940s mantel wireless receiver.

If you'd like information and prices for ordering the stamps, or any of the other items, here's the address: Golden Days of Radio, Australia Post, Australian Philatelic Bureau, GPO Box 9988, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001, Australia. The address again is ... Don't forget to mention that you heard about it on the Radio Stamps program.

That's all for today's program. As promised, here's my mailing address. I'd be pleased to receive your comments and your news for the program. Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0, Canada. The address again is ... Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.